



# HATFIELD

## Hampshire County



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## NARRATIVE

### **Narrative**

The Town of Hatfield is an historic agricultural river town on the west bank of the Connecticut River. Large land grants were made to Governor Bradstreet and Major General Dennison in 1659, and the town's early Colonial settlement in 1660 was compatible with Indian life. The Nonatucks reserved their right to erect wigwams on the common, plant, hunt and fish. In 1662, Thomas Meekins operated a grist mill on the Mill River and in 1669 he added a sawmill. This single area in the town remained an industrial locus for over 200 years.

The first linseed oil mill was patented and established in 1737, and cider mills were opened. Residents raised sheep and cattle and the town was described as a "prosperous town on a strong agricultural base." Hatfield became one of the primary suppliers of beef and of soldiers to the Continental Army. In 1776, 127 men of a population of 582 were serving in the army. In 1786 the town was the site of a 50-community meeting of the rebels involved in Shay's rebellion, who were angered by the hardships and foreclosures brought on by a cash-poor economy.

When they weren't fighting or rebelling, residents of Hatfield grew corn and made brooms, which became a major industry in the town. Irish, German and French Canadian immigrants, drawn to work in building the railroads in the state, finished the track and set up as farmers in Hatfield, as did later arrivals from Poland, Austria and Czechoslovakia. These newcomers created the largest immigrant population in the county at 39.6%. The farmers raised wheat and by 1905 were the leading tobacco and onion producers in the state. There are still over 120 tobacco barns in Hatfield.

Benefactors in the town shared their prosperity with their neighbors. Sophia Smith, an heiress to one of the largest fortunes in Hatfield, used her money to create Smith college, while Caleb Cooley Dickinson founded Dickinson Hospital in Northampton.

Main Street in Hatfield retains a remarkable historic character, with a dense concentration of well preserved 18th and 19th century family homes.

(Seal supplied by community. Narrative based on information provided by the Massachusetts Historical Commission)



# GEOGRAPHY

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## Location

West central Massachusetts, bordered by Whately on the north, Hadley on the east and south, and Northampton and Williamsburg on the west. The Connecticut River forms the eastern and southern boundary of the town. Hatfield is located 24 miles north of Springfield, 98 miles west of Boston, and 161 miles from New York City.

**Total Area:** 16.83 sq. miles

**Land Area:** 16.02 sq. miles

**Population:** 3,184

**Density:** 199 per sq. mile

## Climate

(National Climatic Data Center)

(Amherst Station)

Normal temperature in January.....23.6°F

Normal temperature in July.....71.9°F

Normal annual precipitation.....42.5"

## U.S.G.S. Topographical Plates

Mt. Toby, Williamsburg, Mt. Holyoke, Easthampton

## Regional Planning Agency

Pioneer Valley Planning Commission

## Metropolitan Statistical Area

(1993 Definition)

Springfield



# GOVERNMENT

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## Municipal Offices

Main Number: (413) 247-9211

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

## Form of Government

Board of Selectmen

Administrative Assistant

Open Town Meeting

## Year Incorporated

As a town: 1670

## Registered Voters (Secretary of State 1994)

	Number	%	
Total Registered	2,160		
Democrats	998	46.2	%
Republicans	184	8.5	%
Other parties	0	0.0	%
Unenrolled Voters	978	45.3	%

## Legislators

[Senators and Representatives by City and Town](#)



# DEMOGRAPHICS

**Table DP-1. Profile of General Demographic Characteristics: 2000**

Geographic Area: Hatfield town, Hampshire County, Massachusetts

[For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see text]

Subject	Number	Percent	Subject	Number	Percent
Total population.....	3,249	100.0	HISPANIC OR LATINO AND RACE		
SEX AND AGE			Total population.....	3,249	100.0
Male.....	1,583	48.7	Hispanic or Latino (of any race).....	34	1.0
Female.....	1,666	51.3	Mexican.....	3	0.1
Under 5 years.....	154	4.7	Puerto Rican.....	8	0.2
5 to 9 years.....	203	6.2	Cuban.....	5	0.2
10 to 14 years.....	195	6.0	Other Hispanic or Latino.....	18	0.6
15 to 19 years.....	194	6.0	Not Hispanic or Latino.....	3,215	99.0
20 to 24 years.....	102	3.1	White alone.....	3,169	97.5
25 to 34 years.....	349	10.7	RELATIONSHIP		
35 to 44 years.....	536	16.5	Total population.....	3,249	100.0
45 to 54 years.....	631	19.4	In households.....	3,249	100.0
55 to 59 years.....	210	6.5	Householder.....	1,381	42.5
60 to 64 years.....	131	4.0	Spouse.....	733	22.6
65 to 74 years.....	264	8.1	Child.....	875	26.9
75 to 84 years.....	228	7.0	Own child under 18 years.....	648	19.9
85 years and over.....	52	1.6	Other relatives.....	99	3.0
Median age (years).....	43.2	(X)	Under 18 years.....	13	0.4
18 years and over.....	2,575	79.3	Nonrelatives.....	161	5.0
Male.....	1,225	37.7	Unmarried partner.....	90	2.8
Female.....	1,350	41.6	In group quarters.....	-	-
21 years and over.....	2,483	76.4	Institutionalized population.....	-	-
62 years and over.....	620	19.1	Noninstitutionalized population.....	-	-
65 years and over.....	544	16.7	HOUSEHOLD BY TYPE		
Male.....	225	6.9	Total households.....	1,381	100.0
Female.....	319	9.8	Family households (families).....	871	63.1
RACE			With own children under 18 years.....	381	27.6
One race.....	3,233	99.5	Married-couple family.....	733	53.1
White.....	3,185	98.0	With own children under 18 years.....	314	22.7
Black or African American.....	7	0.2	Female householder, no husband present.....	104	7.5
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	4	0.1	With own children under 18 years.....	54	3.9
Asian.....	16	0.5	Nonfamily households.....	510	36.9
Asian Indian.....	6	0.2	Householder living alone.....	406	29.3
Chinese.....	3	0.1	Householder 65 years and over.....	190	13.8
Filipino.....	-	-	Households with individuals under 18 years.....	398	28.8
Japanese.....	2	0.1	Households with individuals 65 years and over.....	404	29.3
Korean.....	3	0.1	Average household size.....	2.35	(X)
Vietnamese.....	-	-	Average family size.....	2.96	(X)
Other Asian <sup>1</sup> .....	2	0.1	HOUSING OCCUPANCY		
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	2	0.1	Total housing units.....	1,431	100.0
Native Hawaiian.....	-	-	Occupied housing units.....	1,381	96.5
Guamanian or Chamorro.....	-	-	Vacant housing units.....	50	3.5
Samoa.....	1	-	For seasonal, recreational, or		
Other Pacific Islander <sup>2</sup> .....	1	-	occasional use.....	11	0.8
Some other race.....	19	0.6	Homeowner vacancy rate (percent).....	0.8	(X)
Two or more races.....	16	0.5	Rental vacancy rate (percent).....	2.9	(X)
Race alone or in combination with one			HOUSING TENURE		
or more other races: <sup>3</sup>			Occupied housing units.....	1,381	100.0
White.....	3,200	98.5	Owner-occupied housing units.....	1,012	73.3
Black or African American.....	13	0.4	Renter-occupied housing units.....	369	26.7
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	8	0.2	Average household size of owner-occupied units.....	2.54	(X)
Asian.....	23	0.7	Average household size of renter-occupied units.....	1.85	(X)
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	2	0.1			
Some other race.....	19	0.6			

- Represents zero or rounds to zero. (X) Not applicable.

<sup>1</sup> Other Asian alone, or two or more Asian categories.

<sup>2</sup> Other Pacific Islander alone, or two or more Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander categories.

<sup>3</sup> In combination with one or more of the other races listed. The six numbers may add to more than the total population and the six percentages may add to more than 100 percent because individuals may report more than one race.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000.



# HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS

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**Home Sales** (Banker & Tradesman) -

[Town Stats - Free market Statistics](#)

**Subsidized Housing Units** (DHCD 1998)

[DHCD Subsidized Housing Inventory](#)

Subsidized Housing Units: The number of housing units which count toward the municipality's 10% goal for low- and moderate-income housing. It includes both subsidized affordable units and market rate units in certain eligible subsidized developments.

**Public Housing Units** (DHCD 1999)

Conventional State:	44
Conventional Federal:	0

**Rental Assistance**(DHCD 1999)

State (MRVP:	0
Federal (Section 8):	0



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# TRANSPORTATION

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## TRANSPORTATION AND ACCESS

Hatfield is located in the Pioneer Valley, known as the crossroads of New England because of its strategic position along the Connecticut River Valley its excellent transportation facilities. The Massachusetts Turnpike connects the region to Boston and Albany, New York. Interstate 91 provides direct access to Hartford, Connecticut, and to Brattleboro and points north in Vermont.

### Major Highways

Principal highways are Interstate Route 91 and U.S. Route 5, run N-S across Massachusetts.

### Rail

Freight rail service is available from the Springfield Terminal Railway.  
Contact number: (508) 663-1073

### Bus

Hatfield is not affiliated with a regional transportation authority.

### Other

The LaFleur Airport, a General Aviation (GA) facility located in nearby Northampton, has a 3,506'x 50' asphalt runway. Instrument approaches available: Non-precision.



# CULTURE AND RECREATION

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## LIBRARIES

[Board of Library Commissioners On-line Library Catalog](#)

## MUSEUMS

(American Association of Museums)

None

## RECREATION

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

**Recreational Facilities** (Recreational sites and activities)

[Department of Environmental Management Recreation Section](#)



# MISCELLANEOUS

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## HEALTH FACILITIES

(Dept. of Public Health 1992)

### Hospitals

None

### Long Term Care

None

### Hospices

None

### Rest Homes

None

### UTILITIES

[Telephone Numbers for Public Utilities](#)



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NOTE: The COMMUNITY PROFILE draws information from a diversity of sources. The main source of information is listed under each section. In some instances comments submitted by the municipality were incorporated to correct and/or enhance the information obtained from the main source. However, no changes were made to those data bases which must be consistent throughout the state. DHCD has made efforts to ensure the accuracy of all data in the COMMUNITY PROFILES, but cannot take responsibility for any consequences arising from the use of the information contained in this document.